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Timothy K. McGuire, Executive Director

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Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) would like to express our opposition for Senate Bills 630 and 631, which would limit the ability of a county to levy a special tax to cover the costs associated with the judgment against it.

The option to levy a special tax is only used in rare instances, but is necessary in such instances to ensure that a county does not go into debt or worse, bankruptcy in order to pay for the judgment against it. Furthermore, the ability to levy a special tax in these rare situations allows a county to maintain its' ability to provide its essentially mandated services including but not limited to: jails, police, fire, courts, and community mental health through the existing ad valorem taxes, revenue sharing, and local fees.

MAC has serious concerns regarding this legislation. Specifically, these bills would circumvent a county's currently ability to raise additional mills to pay for judgment levies. The prohibition of this ability thereby creates a financial obstacle in the limited circumstances that judgment levies are even considered by a county.

Our membership appreciates your careful consideration of this pending legislation and welcomes the opportunity to discuss our position further, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy K. McGuire  
Executive Director